



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service

## Fact Sheet

### *WTO and Agriculture* **What's at Stake for North Dakota?**

#### **October 1999**

North Dakota is an important producer of agricultural products and a major exporter. In 1998, it ranked 16th among all 50 states in the value of its agricultural exports. The state's agricultural exports reached an estimated \$1.1 billion. Exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 16,700 jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are important to North Dakota's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports varied from 32 to 51 percent since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # wheat and products -- \$483 million
- # sunflower seed and oil -- \$175 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$113 million
- # feed grains and products -- \$100 million
- # vegetables and preparations -- \$109 million

World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If North Dakota's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.



#### **North Dakota Producers Benefit From Trade Agreements**

- # North Dakota, the nation's second largest wheat producer, benefits under the Uruguay Round from a 33 percent reduction in the quantity of EU wheat receiving export subsidies by 2000. Japan is expanding its 5,530,000 ton tariff-rate quota by 35,000 tons annually from 1995 to 2000.
- # The nation's leading sunflower grower, North Dakota benefits under the Uruguay Round from a 50-percent reduction in Japan's tariffs and a 40-percent reduction in Korea's tariffs on sunflower oil.
- # North Dakota benefits from the Uruguay Round with a 38-percent reduction in the quantity of EU beef receiving export subsidies by 2000. Japan is reducing beef tariffs from 50 percent to 38.5 percent. Korea will eliminate its beef import quota by 2001 and reduce its tariffs to 40 percent by 2004, and the Philippines is reducing its beef tariff from 60 percent to 35 percent by 2004.